

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05  
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /063 W  
-----071818 031052Z /14  
P 031016Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO USICA WASHDC PRIORITY  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9566  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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USICA

FOR: SECSTATE EA/PHL  
ICA/EA AND ECA  
CINCPAC - ICA ADVISOR

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - JULY 28 - AUGUST 3, 1978

### I. PSYCHOLOGICAL SITUATION

IN A CLEAR WAIT-AND-SEE MOOD, THE MEDIA DID NOT EDITORIALIZE THIS WEEK ON THE U.S./ASEAN TALKS NOW GOING ON IN WASHINGTON. COLUMNIST DOROT VALENCIA IN FACT SAID HE WAS WAITING FOR THE RESULTS OF THE TALKS, ALTHOUGH NOT WITH ANY DEGREE OF OPTIMISM. NESTOR MATA, WRITING IN THE SUNDAY EXPRESS, CALLED FOR THOROUGHNESS IN THE TALKS. THE ONLY OTHER COMMENT CAME FROM MODERATE POL BATALLA, WHO ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO THE RUSSIAN CLAIM THAT THE AMERICANS WANTED TO MAKE THE TALKS MILITARY. HE DISAGREED WITH THAT POSITION. THE NEWS COLUMNS, OF COURSE, CARRIED EVERY DEVELOPMENT LEADING UP TO THE TALKS, GENERALLY FOCUSING ON THE HIGH LEVEL NATURE OF THE DELEGATIONS.

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LIKewise, RADIO AND TELEVISION DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO THE STRAIGHT FACTS. (SEE SEPARATE MEDIA REACTION REPORTING.)

### II. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

A. IN ORDER TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE U.S. VIEWPOINT ON

ASEAN IS PROMINENTLY FEATURED, POST INITIATED AND COORDINATED WITH GOVERNMENT TV STATION CHANNEL 4 A 1:40 MINUTE (ONE MINUTE 40 SECONDS) VIDEOTAPED REMARKS BY AMB. RICHARD MURPHY WHO SAID, INTER ALIA, "AMERICAN OFFICIALS REITERATED THEIR REGARD FOR ASEAN AS PRAGMATIC, CONSTRUCTIVE, AND VIABLE GROUP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHEAST ASIA." CHANNEL 4, MPI RADIO 1 AND VOP USED AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS IN NEWS LEADS. AT THE SAME TIME, POST RELEASED EPF WASHINGTON ASEAN SCENESETTER WHICH WAS REPRINTED IN BULLETIN TODAY.

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B. POST'S MILITARY/SECURITY EMPHASIS WAS ADVANCED SIGNIFICANTLY BY APPEARANCES OF PROFESSOR KENNETH CHERN AS A VOLSPKR AT THE PHILIPPINE ARMY TRAINING COMMAND AND THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY. SPEAKING ON THE U.S. AND THE EMERGING ORDER IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, CHERN PROVOKED LIVELY, IF NOT PROFOUND, DISCUSSION AMONG OFFICERS AND CADETS.

--QUESTIONING OF US MOTIVES FOR ITS SOUTHEAST ASIAN PRESENCE, ON-GOING BASES NEGOTIATIONS, AND PHILIPPINE NATIONALISM WERE THE ELEMENTS THAT MOST OFTEN CAME TO THE FORE IN THE INTERCHANGE BETWEEN CHERN AND THE VERY WELL INFORMED PHILIPPINE MILITARY MEN. DESCRIBING HIMSELF AS A "YOUNG TURK," ONE OFFICER SAID HE WOULD "RENT THE BASES TO THE RUSSIANS IF THEY WERE WILLING TO PAY TEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CENTAVOS MORE PER HECTARE." PMA CADETS WERE EXPECTEDLY LESS AGGRESSIVE THAN THE CAREER OFFICERS AT THE PATC BUT DID SHOW CONCERN FOR AND INTEREST IN THE MAJOR STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC ISSUES DISCUSSED BY CHERN, WHO WAS, BY THE WAY, AN EXCELLENT SPEAKER.

--IN ADDITION TO A GOOD EXCHANGE BETWEEN CHERN AND HIS AUDIENCES, THE PRESENTATION ENABLED THE POST TO GET A BETTER FIX ON THIS SELDOM REACHED TARGET GROUP.  
(END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

C. PEACE RESEARCHER J. DAVID SINGER'S CALL AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS YESTERDAY PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM TO CONFRONT A PHILIPPINE DIPLOMAT DEEPLY INFLUENCED BY LATIN AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN THEORIES OF DEPENDENCY. THE CONFRONTATION, CARRIED ON IN CIVILIZED TERMS, WAS IMPORTANT BECAUSE SAMUEL RAMEL, THE AMERICAN DESK POLITICAL OFFICER, WAS AN OBVIOUSLY DOMINANT VOICE IN THE ROOM OF POLITICAL OFFICERS TO WHOM SINGER WAS SPEAKING. LATER, SINGER SPOKE TO AN UNEXPECTEDLY LARGE AUDIENCE OF ASAP AND OTHER POLITICAL SCIENTISTS AT THE TJCC URGING THIRD WORLD POLITICAL ELITE TO STUDY THE CUL-

TURE OF THE UNITED STATES IN FAR GREATER DEPTH AND MORE SOPHISTICATED MANNER THAN IS CURRENTLY THE CASE. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO BEMOAN THE INADEQUACIES OF AMERICAN POLICIES, HE SAID. YOU MUST PRESS IN GLOBAL POLITICS IN A MORE VIGOROUS WAY. ONE CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE US THROUGH TIRED SLOGANS ABOUT CAPITALISM. ONE MUST INSTEAD UNDERSTAND THE FRAGILE POWER BALANCES IN THE UNITED STATES. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GAIN ENOUGH LEVERAGE TO INFLUENCE AMERICAN THOUGHT.

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INFO OCT-01 EB-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05  
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /063 W  
-----071761 031051Z /14

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FOR: SECSTATE EA/PHL  
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D. AN INTEREST SPARKED BY HIS PARTICIPATION IN AN ICA HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM SEVERAL MONTHS AGO PROMPTED PHILIPPINE PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT SALVADOR GONZALEZ TO ORGANIZE HIS GROUP'S ANNUAL MEETING AROUND THIS THEME OVER THE PAST WEEKEND. THE TWO-DAY MEETING FEATURED A TALK ATTRIBUTED TO PRESIDENT MARCOS (DELIVERED BY SSS CHAIRMAN ADRIAN CRISTOBAL), WHICH INSISTED THAT THE WESTERN ORIENTATION TOWARDS HUMAN RIGHTS WAS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL SUCH POSSIBILITIES, INCLUDING ASIAN APPROACHES WHICH MIGHT BE PRESCRIBED IN ASIAN SOCIETIES. ALSO ON THE PROGRAM WERE CARDINAL JAIME SIN, JUSTICE ENRIQUE FERNANDO, POLITICAL SCIENTIST JOSE DAVID LAPUZ AND ISLAMIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST CESAR MAJUL. GONZALEZ HIMSELF GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS -- PRIMARILY FROM A WESTERN

POINT OF VIEW -- AND EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR INDIVIDUAL  
FREEDOM IN ANY SOCIETY. GONZALEZ SAID LATER THAT HE HAD  
ORGANIZED THIS SEMINAR TO HELP KEEP HUMAN RIGHTS ALIVE  
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AS AN ISSUE IN THE PHILIPPINES. HE CREDITED HIS PARTI-  
CIPATION WITH HISTORIAN WALTER HUGINS IN AN ICA SEMINAR  
LAST FEBRUARY WITH HAVING SPURRED HIS INTEREST IN THE  
MATTER. COMPLETE SET OF PAPERS READ AT THE SEMINAR WILL  
FOLLOW. DAWSON

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